

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 EURE-00 NSC-07 NEA-14 IO-14 OMB-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 /148 W

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P 041225Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5144

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MC

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MOPS, SP, IT

SUBJECT: SPANISH COOPERATION WITH NATO

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REFS: A. STATE 111601; B. OSLO 2105; C. USNATO 3067

1. IN CONSIDERING BEST WAY TO PROCEED WITH CONSULTATIONS ON SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN NAVOCFORMED FALL EXERCISE, WE WISH TO ENDORSE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY KNATO IN PARA 3, REF C, THAT NORWEGIANS ALONE DO NOT NECESSARILY HOLD KEY TO DPC APPROVAL, AND THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO RAISE SUBJECT DURING OTHER BILATERALS AT BERGEN AND PRIVATELY AT MINISTERIAL. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT IN CASE OF ITALIANS, WHO HAVE STRONG VIEWS, ALREADY MADE KNOWN IN LAST YEAR'S DISCUSSIONS OF NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO BARCELONA AND TUNIS, THAT NON-NATO INVOLVEMENT IN NAVOCFORMED ACTIVITIES SHOULD FIRST BE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL APPROVAL AND WHO, AS MEDITERRANEAN NATION, WOULD FEEL A PARTICULARLY INTERESTED PARTY REGARDING PRESENT PROPOSAL.

2. WHILE ITALIANS OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY HELPFUL TO US IN PROMOTING LOW-LEVEL SPAIN-NATO MILITARY LINKS -- E.G., DUAL HATTING OF COMAIRSOUTH, NON-OPPOSITION TO BARCELONA PORT CALL -- THEIR RECENT RECORD ON CONTACTS WITH SPAIN HAS BEEN MIXED. THEY HAVE APPROVED THE PRESENCE OF SPANISH OBSERVERS AT BI-LATERAL US-ITALIAN EXERCISE FLAMING LANCE TO BE CONDUCTED ON SARDINIA LATER THIS MONTH. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ITALIAN NAVY WITHDREW FROM A SCHEDULED BALEARIC ISLAND EXERCISE IN MARCH THIS YEAR (MADRID 1615), CANCELLED A SCHEDULED TRI-LATERAL EXERCISE WITH SPANISH PARTICIPATION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER LAST YEAR, AND HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THEY WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE ASKED ABOUT SCHEDULING ANOTHER TRILATERAL THIS YEAR.

3. ENOUGH DOUBT EXISTS IN OUR MINDS AS TO WHERE ITALIANS MIGHT COME DOWN ON SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN FALL EXERCISE AS TO MERIT EXTRA ATTENTION'S BEING PAID TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM IN ADVANCE OF SEIZING DPC FORMALLY WITH ISSUE. AS A SOUTHERN FLANK NATION, ITALY WILL OBVIOUSLY FEEL ITSELF ESPECIALLY QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON MILITARY NECESSITY ASPECTS OF SPAIN'S PARTICIPATION. A FAVORABLE ITALIAN JUDGEMENT ON THESE ASPECTS MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE USEFUL IN CONVINCING THE NORTHERN ALLIES THAT THERE IS INDEED A VALID MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR OUR PROPOSAL.

4. FOR THESE REASONS WE RECOMMEND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER
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SOUND OUT ANDREOTTI, WHO IS ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS WITHIN THE GOI ON THESE MATTERS, AT BERGEN IF POSSIBLE, OR LATER IN BURSSELS. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME07612
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-0375
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740676/aaaacobt.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 111601; B. OSLO 2105; C. US, NATO 3067
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH COOPERATION WITH NATO CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SP, IT, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005